

**IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF TEXAS  
HOUSTON DIVISION**

**ZELIA BROWN AND OTHER  
SIMILARLY SITUATED  
INDIVIDUALS,**

*Plaintiffs,*

**V.**

**HOUSTON COMMUNITY COLLEGE  
SYSTEM,**

***Defendant.***

*[Decorative flourish]*

**CIVIL ACTION NO. 4:20-cv-02186**

## **PLAINTIFF'S REPORT ON DISCOVERY**

Plaintiff Zelia Brown submits this report on discovery pursuant to the court's  
Discovery Order entered June 3, 2022.

### A. Report on Discovery.

Pursuant to the court's Discovery Order entered June 3, 2022 (Dkt. 148), the following depositions were completed as follows:

- HCC took Pandora Jubilee’s deposition on June 24, 2022.
- HCC took Dr. Terry Kidd’s deposition on June 27, 2022.
- HCC took Plaintiff Zelia Brown’s deposition on June 30, 2022.
- Plaintiff took Miguel San Juan’s deposition on July 26, 2022.
- Plaintiff took Thomas Anderson’s deposition on July 27, 2022.
- Plaintiff took Tara Bond’s deposition on July 28, 2022.
- Plaintiff took Dr. Maya Durnovo’s deposition on August 8, 2022.

- Plaintiff took Dr. David Cross' deposition on August 8, 2022.

**B. Plaintiff's Position on Additional Discovery.**

Plaintiff maintains that additional depositions and discovery are required in this matter and respectfully requests a status conference with the Court to discuss the legal framework upon which this case is to proceed. Plaintiff requests additional discovery including, but not limited to, the depositions of Chancellor Cesar Maldonado; an HCC Corporate Representative(s); and Kumar Zuberi in the grants accounting department. As alleged in Plaintiff's complaint, Chancellor Maldonado was one of the ultimate policy makers at the College and would have direct knowledge of (1) whether Defendants created a deliberate general policy for targeting, demoting and discharging Black employees; (2) whether Defendants engaged in a general policy, pattern and practice of replacing Black employees with less qualified Hispanic or White employees; (3) whether these actions were the result of a de facto policy of racial discrimination; and (4) whether Defendants are liable for damages for discriminatory conduct based on race in violation of Section 1981. The Plaintiff also requests the deposition of an HCC Corporate Representative(s) to provide testimony on: 1) policies and practices relating to grant awards, compliance and non-compliance issues; 2) the contents of any and all investigations, grievances, criticism, reprimands and/or disciplinary actions taken against Zelia Brown; 3) decision-making process and reasons for placing Zelia Brown on leave of absence and the person(s) who made those decisions; 4) what actions have been implemented or taken against any other employees relating to the complaints raised by Zelia Brown and/or changes to grant compliance because of or since the criticisms raised by Plaintiff; 5) the identity of all HCC

administrators who would have had to approve the non-complying handling of grants at HCC while Zelia Brown was employed; and 6) the reasons why disciplinary actions were taken against Zelia Brown. Additionally, the deposition of Maya Durnovo revealed that Mr. Zuberi may possess additional information regarding HCC's misuse of federal grant funds as alleged by Plaintiff.

Plaintiff respectfully requests a status conference with the Court to discuss the additional depositions and discovery required in this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

THE HALL LAW GROUP, PLLC

/s/ Benjamin L. Hall, III

Benjamin L. Hall, III

State Bar No. 08743745

Federal Bar No. 8787

bhall@bhalllawfirm.com

William L. Van Fleet, II

State Bar No. 20494750

Federal Bar No. 3670

bvfleet@comcast.net

THE HALL LAW FIRM

530 Lovett Blvd.

Houston, Texas 77006

Telephone: (713) 942-9600

Facsimile: (713) 942-92566

AND

THE HITTNER GROUP, PLLC

/s/ George J. Hittner

State Bar No. 24038959

Federal Bar No. 431901

george.hittner@thehittnergroupp.com

P.O. Box 541189  
Houston, Texas 77254  
Telephone: (713) 505-1003

AND

THE VILLACORTA LAW FIRM, PC

/s/ Adrian V. Villacorta

State Bar No. 24003111  
Federal Bar No. 31243  
avillacorta@avvlaw.com  
530 Lovett Blvd.  
Houston, Texas 77006

AND

JIMMY ARDOIN & ASSOCIATES, PLLC

/s/ James Ardoin

State Bar No. 24045420  
Federal Bar No. 571281  
4900 Fournace Place, Suite 550  
Houston, Texas 77401  
Telephone: (731) 574-8900  
Toll Free: (888) 701-8509  
jimmy@jimmyardoinlaw.com

AND

BAKER BOTTS, LLP

/s/ Thomas R. Phillips

Thomas R. Phillips  
98 San Jacinto Blvd., Suite 1500  
Austin, Texas 78701  
Telephone: (512) 322-2500  
Facsimile: (512) 322-2501  
tom.phillips@bakerbotts.com

AND

AHMAD, ZAVITSANOS, ANAIPAKOS,  
ALAVI & MENSING, PC

/s/ Joseph Y. Ahmad

Joseph Y. Ahmad

State Bar No. 00941100

Federal Bar No. 11604

Jordan Warshauer

State Bar No. 24086613

Federal Bar No. 2994699

Edward B. Goolsby

State Bar No. 24092436

Federal Bar No. 2505570

Nathan B. Campbell

State Bar No. 24097455

Federal Bar No. 2745040

1221 McKinney Street, Suite 2500

Houston, Texas 77010

Telephone: (713) 655-1101

Facsimile: (713) 655-0062

joeahmad@azalaw.com

egoolsby@azalaw.com

jwarshauer@azalaw.com

ncampbell@azalaw.com

**ATTORNEYS FOR PLAINTIFF**